

26 March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2017, HM Inspectors published a letter on Pentland School. The letter set out a number of areas for improvement which we agreed with the school and North Lanarkshire Council. Recently, as you may know, we visited the school again. During our visit, we talked to children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff. We heard from the headteacher and other staff about the steps the school has taken to improve. We looked at particular areas that had been identified in the original inspection. As a result, we were able to find out about the progress the school has made and how well this is supporting children's learning and achievements. This letter sets out what we found.

Continue to review approaches to promoting positive behaviour with a focus on reducing the number of exclusions, physical interventions and seclusions.

Although there has been a reduction since the original inspection, the school continues to have high exclusion figures. This is having an adverse effect on children's attainment and achievement, confidence and health and wellbeing. The school also continues to rely heavily on the use of physical interventions and seclusion to manage children's behaviour. Overall, there is very little change in staff's approaches to promoting positive behaviour since the original inspection. As an immediate priority, the school needs to revisit its approaches to promoting positive behaviour to ensure that exclusions and physical interventions are a last resort and only used in exceptional circumstances. As planned, the school should look to eradicate the use of seclusions altogether. Staff require significant training to support the increasingly diverse needs of children attending the school. The acting headteacher has recognised that urgent and immediate improvements are required and has made a positive start in leading the school to make these necessary changes. She has a comprehensive six month action plan in place to address the key issues.

The majority of children continue to display appropriate behaviour and engage well in their learning most of the time. However, as a result of their additional support needs, most children face challenges in managing their behaviour at times. They do not always display appropriate social interactions with staff or each other. This leads to conflict and disruption in classrooms and in other spaces. The senior leadership team, together with staff, need to implement appropriate approaches to support these children that take full account of their social and emotional needs.

The school has made insufficient progress since the original inspection. We will liaise with North Lanarkshire Council regarding the school's capacity to improve. We will return to carry out a further inspection of the school within nine months of the publication of this letter. We will discuss with North Lanarkshire Council the details of this inspection. When we return to inspect the school we will write to you as parents informing you of the progress the school has made.

Steven McPherson
Managing Inspector